**Pre-market Engagement Advert**

**UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)**

Operating across the whole of the UK with a combined annual budget of more than £7 billion, UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

**Background to the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund**

The [Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund](https://www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/#pagecontentid-0) is part of the greatest single increase in UK science and innovation funding for over 40 years. With around £3 billion of public money, plus industry co-investment, it represents a total of more than £5 billion additional spending on research and development in the UK.  UK Research and Innovation leads the delivery of the fund.

UKRI and the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) is committed to collecting evidence to understand the impacts and effectiveness of the ISCF Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge. Bids are invited for producing a process evaluation report, an interim progress report and an impact evaluation report which, combined, will assess the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts against the Programme’s approved Business Case and Delivery Plan.

The ISCF aims to improve the performance of our whole science and innovation system and is essential to realise the R&D ambitions of the UK. The industry-led approach of the ISCF will facilitate and accelerate the commercialisation of new technologies, increase productivity, create new export opportunities, and enable Challenge business models to flourish. It will enhance and capitalise on our world-class research base, supporting businesses to apply cutting-edge research in new, commercialised applications in global markets of the future***.***

**ISCF Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge**
The [Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge](https://www.ukri.org/our-work/our-main-funds/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/clean-growth/industrial-decarbonisation-challenge/) (IDC) was launched by UKRI in July 2019 and will run until March 2024. During its implementation, the IDC is investing £210M of public money – paired with an anticipated £261M of industry funding – with the aim to accelerate cost-effective decarbonisation of industry by developing low-carbon technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) and hydrogen production, at scale in the UK, across our industrial clusters.

The Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge supports delivery of the Clean Growth Grand Challenge, the Industrial Clusters Mission and the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy. Since the inception of the IDC the government ambition has accelerated, moving from “establishing the world’s first net-zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040, with at least one low-carbon industrial cluster by 2030”, to “establishing CCUS in two industrial cluster by mid-2020’s, and aim for four of these sites by 2030”.

The scope of the Challenge includes laying the foundations for scalable and replicable industrial cluster decarbonisation, through coordinated investment in research, technology demonstration, development of shared infrastructure, cluster collaboration and supply chains. It will provide a platform for government, industry and business to progress large scale decarbonisation in UK clusters rapidly and cost-effectively, and de-risk opportunities for future cluster decarbonisation. The IDC does not address delivery and implementation of UK-wide industrial decarbonisation, demand for low carbon products, or policy creation – these are out of scope.

Building upon the existing Evaluation Framework, Baseline report and Early Insights Process Evaluation, delivered earlier this year, we now seek to procure evaluation specialists with specific expertise in the industrial decarbonisation/energy field and research evaluation to deliver three specific pieces of work:

1. **Process evaluation report**
To assess how the specific approach(es) adopted by the Challenge have enabled the delivery of expected benefits, outcomes and impacts.
2. **Interim progress report for evaluation including data collation of benefits and evaluation measures**
To indicate if the challenge is on track to deliver the expected impacts.  Review and adjust evaluation approach if necessary in order to deliver an interim impact evaluation report.

The successful supplier will be required to capture and analyse data against the challenge identified benefit measures and evaluation indicators.

1. **Impact evaluation report including data collation of benefits and evaluation measures**
To provide an assessment of the outcomes and impacts of the programme to date, providing comprehensive answers to each of the pre-agreed evaluation questions.

The successful supplier will be required to ensure the end products (each of the reports) are fit for purpose, of high quality and data accuracy and are robust enough to remain relevant as the programme progress through its lifecycle.

Please note, UKRI is open to consortia applications where specialist knowledge of the industry may not be present within one company.

All evaluation activity undertaken at the challenge level must provide evidence of the impact of the challenge and contribute to the fund-level evaluation which will allow industry and UKRI to assess the value for money of the ISCF and ensure public money is being spent in accordance with the fund’s stated aims, also to understand the impact of its activity on the UK’s knowledge, the economy and society. The evaluation will also need to inform ongoing and future improvements of programme design and delivery.

This procurement activity will be advertised against RM6018 Research Marketplace DPS.